

## Trace Evidence Unit FAQs

**Q. Which lab do I submit it to if I have a case with evidence that needs to be examined by the Trace Unit as well as DNA, Identification etc?**

A: You should send all of the evidence to the lab you would normally submit to. If you are in the Madison Laboratory Service area, submit to the Madison Lab and they will forward the items that need Trace Unit work done on them to Milwaukee. If you ONLY need Trace evidence items examined, they should be submitted directly to the Milwaukee Laboratory.

**Q. How do I submit a vehicle to the laboratory for processing?**

A: You need to call the laboratory and they will inform you of garage availability and instruct you how to proceed. Be sure when transporting the vehicle that pertinent exterior areas are protected from wind, weather etc. so evidence is not lost or damaged. This applies to evidence such as fibers, fabric impressions, DNA and fingerprints.

**Q. Can I use lined paint cans for Fire Debris cases?**

A: Yes, the lined cans are being produced with an epoxy coating which does not interfere with the ignitable liquid testing. The lined cans also have the advantage of wet debris not rusting the can.

**Q. How much known paint should I collect?**

A: For known paint (auto or architectural), it is necessary to collect all layers down to the substrate (wood, metal, plastic etc.). Since known paints are generally not limited in amount available, it is recommended that you collect at least one or two nickel to quarter size pieces at a minimum.

**Q. Where should I collect known paint?**

A: For automobiles, known paint should be collected from all damaged panels near the area of damage since paint can be different on different body parts. This also applies to architectural paint. If damage in a forced entry occurs in a door jamb collect known paint from the frame as well as the door.

**Q. How should I package clothing being submitted for glass analysis from a burglary?**

A: Items of clothing that ONLY need to be examined for glass (no DNA needed) can be packaged together in a paper bag with the exception of the shoes. Shoes need to be packaged in a separate bag. When removing clothing from a suspect, be sure to include the paper they undressed on.

**Q. Where should I send a gunshot residue kit?**

A: Below is a list of private testing labs that will analyze for gunshot residue. Please contact the lab directly to get current quotes and requirements for submissions.

- 1) McCrone Associates, Inc.  
850 Pasquinelli Drive  
Westmont, IL 60559  
Ph. 630-887-7100
- 2) Gateway Analytical LLC  
5316 William Flynn Highway  
Gibsonia, PA 15044  
Ph. 724-443-1900
- 3) Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory  
7337 Louis Pasteur Drive  
San Antonio, Texas  
Ph. 210- 335-4100

Q. Can you analyze oil to show that a stain came from a particular vehicle?

A: No we cannot analyze oils with our equipment. This includes cooking oils, linseed oil and motor oils.

Q. I have a suspected food tampering case, who should I send it to?

A: If the suspected tampering agent is a medication, it should be sent to toxicology. If it involves a foreign object or ignitable liquid, it should be sent to the trace evidence unit. For all other substance, please contact the laboratory to assess which unit to submit to.

Q. I have a gas can that needs fingerprints (or DNA) done on it but I also need ignitable liquid analysis. How should I submit this?

A: A small amount of liquid (<1 ounce) should be packaged separately in a vial or jar. Any remaining gas should be removed and the gas container then packaged for submission to DNA.